

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
RECEIVED
8 OCT 1953

A.

MOLD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Mold Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report on the health of the Urban District of Mold for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

From Table I it will be seen that the number of live-births was 124, compared with 131 in 1951, giving a fall in the birth-rate from 20.12 to 18.92 per thousand.

Table II shows that there were 5 still-births, compared with 2 in 1951. In Table III, it is shown that there was a rise in the total number of deaths from 67 in 1951 to 90 in 1952, giving a crude death-rate of 13.73 per 1,000. Table IV gives an analysis of the causes of death. Of the 90 deaths, diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for 24; vascular lesions of the nervous system for 22, and cancer for 20. In a population which has an ever increasing number of old people, those figures must be expected to show an increase, as these complaints are found mainly in the elderly. It is pleasing to record once more that there were no deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

There were 4 deaths of infants under one year, giving an Infantile Death-Rate of 32.25 per 1,000 live-births, the rate for England and Wales being 27.6.

The water supply to the town caused some anxiety during the summer drought. In July and August, the local supply was augmented from the Birkenhead Corporation supply, and as there was a general shortage, it was necessary to cut off supplies between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Concerning housing, it will be seen that 94 Council houses were in course of erection during the year. Mold is unfortunate in that there is difficulty in obtaining land for building upon. With an ever increasing waiting list for houses, many more houses are required. It is possible that in time the Authority's houses will have to be erected outside the district boundaries, with consequent loss of revenue from rates.

Conditions at the local slaughterhouse have improved during the year. The building is of insufficient size for the volume of work handled, and it is out of date in many ways. It is to be hoped that in time a modern building may be erected in a more suitable and less public place.

There were 17 cases of notifiable disease during the year. There was no serious outbreak of disease, but Influenza was prevalent in November and December, with one death. In the course of the year, 13 new cases of Tuberculosis occurred—10 respiratory, 3 non-respiratory. Four of the cases occurred in one family, one of the patients being a baby who died. Deaths from respiratory Tuberculosis totalled 3 as in 1950.

In September, the Mass Radiography Unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board visited Mold. The response by the public was good—1,596 persons, including children over 14 years, being examined. One case of Tuberculosis was found as a result of the examination.

In the present enlightened days it is satisfying to find that there is a voluntary body in the town whose efforts are promoting the welfare of the elderly people of the district. With shortage of housing and overcrowding, too often one finds that aged members of families are dumped into hospitals and institutions, where they remain. It is to the advantage of the community to keep our old people active and interested in life; to ensure this, we must make them feel that they really are wanted. The least that we can do for them is to help them to ward off that dreaded companion of old age—loneliness. However much is provided by the State and by local authorities, nothing can replace the old neighbourly kindness which has been in danger of dying out.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council as a whole, and your officers, for the assistance which has been so readily given to me throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

There has been no change in the area under this heading during the year under review.

Area in acres—1160 statutory acres.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) :—

Mid-year 1952—6553.

Mid-year 1951—6509.

Number of inhabited houses—1862.

Rateable value—£39,675.

Product of a penny rate—£156/6/5.

Vital Statistics—These are given in tabular form. For purposes of comparison, figures for last year are given, and, where appropriate, the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE I. Births.

Live Births.						
		Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	...	52	...	64	...	116
Illegitimate	...	4	...	4	...	8
Total		...	56	...	68	124

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952—18.92.

1951—20.12.

England and Wales : Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952 (Provisional)—15.3.

1951—15.5.

These figures show a slight fall in local and in national rates, but the Mold Urban District birth rate is still well above that for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE II. Still Births.

		Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	...	4	...	1	...	5
Illegitimate	...	—	...	—	...	—
Total		...	4	...	1	5

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births :—

1952—38.75.

1951—15.03.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population :—

1952—0.76.

1951—0.30.

England and Wales : Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952 (Provisional)—0.35.

1951—0.36.

TABLE III. Death (General) Rate :—

All ages (all causes)—Males 41, Females 49, Total 90.

Death Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952—13.73.

1951—10.29.

England and Wales : Death Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952 (Provisional)—11.3.

1951—12.5.

There has been a rise in the crude death rate for the Mold Urban District. The rate for England and Wales shows a slight fall.

TABLE IV. Deaths (General) Analysis.

Causes.						Rate per 1000 Population.	
			M.	F.	Total.		
Tuberculosis—respiratory	...	...	1	2	3	...	0.45
Syphilitic disease	...	...	1	—	1	...	0.15
Cancer of stomach	...	...	2	4	6	...	0.91
Cancer of uterus	...	...	—	3	3	...	0.45
Cancer of other organs	...	...	5	6	11	...	1.67
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	9	13	22	...	3.35
Coronary disease, Angina	...	...	8	1	9	...	1.37
Other heart disease	...	...	3	6	9	...	1.37
Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	5	6	...	0.91
Influenza	...	...	—	1	1	...	0.15
Pneumonia	...	...	1	3	4	...	0.61
Bronchitis	...	...	1	1	2	...	0.30
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	3	—	3	...	0.45
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	1	1	...	0.15
Hyperplasia prostate	...	...	1	—	1	...	0.15
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	3	3	6	...	0.91
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	—	1	...	0.15
All other accidents	...	...	1	—	1	...	0.15
Totals			41	49	90		

The leading causes of death were thus :—

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system	...	24	(22)
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	22	(16)
Cancer (all forms)	...	20	(11)

The corresponding figures for 1951 are given in brackets.

TABLE V. Deaths (Childbirth)—Nil.

It is pleasing to record that once again there were no deaths attributable to pregnancy or childbirth.

TABLE VI. Death Rate (Infantile)—that is, Infants under one year old :—

		Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	...	1	...	2	...	3
Illegitimate	...	—	...	1	...	1
		—		—		—
Total	...	1		3		4
		—		—		—

Infantile Death Rate of Legitimate babies per 1,000

Legitimate Births :—

1952—25.77.

1951—7.75.

Infantile Death Rate of Illegitimate babies per 1,000

Illegitimate Births :—

1952—1.25.

1951—Nil.

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births (Legitimate and Illegitimate) :—

1952—32.25.

1951—7.63.

England and Wales : Infantile Death Rate per 1,000

Live Births :—

1952 (Provisional)—27.6.

1951—29.6.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

Officers—The Officers serving the Urban District during the year were :—

Medical Officer of Health—D. J. Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor—H. Geoffrey Barnes, S.I.B., M.R.S.I., M. Inst. B.E., M. Inst. R.A., A.M. Inst. H.E.

Laboratory Facilities—Provided by the Public Health Laboratories at Conway and Birkenhead.

Ambulance Services—Provided by the Flintshire County Council. An Ambulance is stationed within the Urban Area on a 24-hour service. Sitting-case car transport is available under arrangements made by the County Welfare Officer. The local office is in Wrexham Street.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Services are provided by the County Council. Two District Nurse/Midwives reside in the area.

Home Help—This service is provided by the County Council. Persons requiring home help should get in touch with the Home Helps Organiser at the County Health Department or with the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis.

Clinics—"Oaklands," Chester Road, Queensferry; Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m. The Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham; Mondays at 9-30 a.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The Clinic, Mold. First and third Mondays of the month at 9-30 a.m.

School Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. The first Friday of the month at 1-30 p.m.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Shotton—New Clinic, Central School. 1st and 3rd Fridays each month at 10-30 a.m.

Infant Welfare.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 1-30 p.m.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. The second Wednesday of the month at 1-30 p.m. (by appointment).

Health Visiting.

Health Visitor/School Nurses are provided by the County Council. These Nurses visit children in their homes up to school age, and attend at the Infant Welfare Clinic sessions.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

This service is maintained by close liaison between the Medical Officer, Health Visitor/School Nurses, Tuberculosis Health Visitors, Home Helps Organiser, the Welfare Department, the County Health Department and voluntary bodies, including associations caring for the blind and deaf, and those otherwise handicapped.

Vaccination is carried out by general medical practitioners, but it may be done by the Medical Officer on request. **National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47).**

(Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention). No cases were dealt with under this heading during the year.

Hospitals.

Hospital accommodation is provided by the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. Mold Cottage Hospital remains in use and provides services for local residents. Patients are admitted to other hospitals in the district, mainly in Wrexham and Chester.

SECTION C.

Water Supply.

Mold water supply is provided by the Mold Undertaking of the Wales Gas Board. The reservoir, situated on the eastern slopes of Moel Fammau, and built towards the end of last century, has insufficient storage space for the needs of the town. With the continuing growth of the town, and the building of more and more houses, the problem of drought in the summer months will become more acute. Land is available for the building of a new reservoir but it is doubtful whether the catchment area is large enough. During drought in the summer months, water is obtained from the Birkenhead Corporation water supply. It may be possible in the future to obtain more water from this source, especially when Birkenhead Corporation will have completed its scheme for extraction of water from the River Dee.

Proportion of dwelling houses and also population supplied with water directly to houses—98 %.

Quality of Water Supply—The water is chlorinated as it leaves the reservoir.

Bacteriological examination of water—Water samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead.

Indepedent samples are regularly taken by the Wales Gas Board.

Of 16 water samples taken by the Sanitary Inspector, 11 were highly satisfactory, 5 were less satisfactory. Repeat samples in the latter case were found to be satisfactory. Occasional complaints are made by the public concerning an unpleasant taste in the water. This is caused by slight over-chlorination, and can be removed by letting the water stand for a time, or by boiling it. This over-chlorination is perfectly harmless to health, and it makes certain that the water is fit to be used. One complete chemical analysis of the water was made, the report being satisfactory.

“Chemical Analysis. In parts per million of water.

Total solid matter in solution	...	...	60.0
Nitrogen in nitrates	...	...	0.38
Nitrites	...	...	—
Chlorine in chlorides	...	...	17.0

Oxygen absorbed from potassium perman- ganate in 4 hours at 80F.	...	...	Nil
Free and saline ammonia	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	Nil
Microscopical deposit	...	...	Nil
Temporary hardness	...	...	15.0
Permanent hardness	...	...	30.0
pH value	...	...	6.6

The above chemical analysis is satisfactory. The water is a very soft one."

Rivers and Streams.

During the summer drought, the level of the River Alyn fell much below normal, with the result that there was insufficient water to dilute the effluent from the sewage works. Sewage during drought is highly concentrated due to absence of the normal rainwater. The sewage works had difficulty in dealing with the concentrated sewage, and it was alleged by interested parties that pollution of the river had occurred. Since then, regular monthly samples of effluent have been sent for analysis, with satisfactory reports. When the new sewage works are completed, they should be able to deal with the town's sewage in a proper manner for many years to come.

Schools.

All schools are regularly visited.

House Refuse.

Refuse collection is carried out by the Authority's labour. Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping.

Nuisance has been caused by uncontrolled tipping of animal and vegetable refuse by shopkeepers.

Sewerage.

The sewage disposal works are of insufficient capacity for the size of the district. The works are frequently overloaded, especially in time of storm, with the resulting risk of pollution of the river into which the effluent flows. A scheme has been approved for the reconstruction of the

works at a cost of over £30,000, and for the re-making of certain lengths of sewer. Extensions were made during the year—the laying of sewers in Queen's Park.

TABLE VII.

Number of visits made in connection with the Public Health matters :—

Visits re complaint of defects	...	...	...	300
Re-visits to property under notice	...	...	...	212
Inspections under Building Byelaws	...	...	...	86
Shops and food stores	...	...	...	100
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	250
Re refuse collection and disposal	...	...	...	10
Re infectious diseases and disinfection	...	...	...	30
Issue of Petrol Licences	...	...	...	2
Factories Act	...	...	...	100
Interviews with Owners or Agents	...	...	...	90
Housing Consolidation Regulations	...	...	...	53
Dirty or verminous premises	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	20
Sewage works	...	...	...	80
Dairies	...	...	...	9
Water Sampling	...	...	...	65

TABLE VIII.

Notices Served :—

Informal under Public Health Acts	...	...	60
Formal under Housing Acts	...	...	—
Abatement under Public Health Acts	...	...	6
Total			66

TABLE IX.

Work Done :—

Proceedings under Public Health Acts	...	...	1
Abatement order obtained	...	...	1
Sanitary Conveniences repaired	...	...	16
Drain obstructions removed	...	...	200
Dangerous floors repaired	...	...	4
Roofs and gutters repaired	...	...	20

Plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouse walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	3
Plumbing repairs completed	...	...	...	...	30
Dangerous structures made safe	...	...	...	...	1
Hedges lopped	...	...	...	...	20
Water supplies improved	...	...	...	...	3
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Yards repaired	...	...	...	...	6

SECTION D.

Housing.

During the year 8 privately built houses were erected, and 94 Council Houses were in course of erection. Of four hundred applicants for Council Houses, 61 per cent. were in rooms, 13 per cent. were over-crowded tenant families, 16 per cent. were in substandard houses, and 10 per cent. were special cases.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food—Regular inspections of food premises were made. All premises were satisfactory as to lighting, ventilation and drainage. In a few cases, lack of cleanliness was apparent. The owners were warned and conditions improved.

All premises where food is handled were inspected regularly.

Generally, those whose occupation involves handling of food are co-operative, and suggestions made in the interests of improved hygiene are well received.

Ice Cream.

All samples of Ice Cream taken during the year were Grade 1. Most of the Ice Cream sold in the district is manufactured in factories situated in other areas and it is pre-packed. The standard of cleanliness of ice cream is satisfactory.

Milk.

The quality of milk from the point of view of composition is the responsibility of the County Council as the Food

and Drugs Authority. Most of the milk sold in the district is supplied by a large firm outside the district, and this milk is all heat treated. There are three producer-retailers in the district. They are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

TABLE X.

Number of animals inspected at the Abattoir :—

Sheep	...	...	...	8300
Cattle	...	...	...	1100
Calves	...	...	...	600
Pigs	...	...	...	300
Total	...	...	...	10,700

TABLE XI.

Meat. Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Including Cows.		Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	...	600	500	600	8300	300
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	2	6	17	14	12
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	250	130	36	600	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	42.00	27.2	8.83	7.4	10.66
Tuberculosis only :—						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	6	5	2	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	200	150	—	—	40
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	34.33	32.0	.033	—	13.66

Carcases, part Carcases and Organs Condemned.

TABLE XII.

Disease.		Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
Carcases	...	8	19	14	13	54
Forequarters	...	6	—	3	—	9
Hindquarters	...	5	—	2	1	8
Heads	...	44	—	2	16	62
Plucks	...	6	—	250	30	286
Lungs	...	100	—	50	20	170
Livers	...	82	3	50	6	141
Spleens	...	20	2	3	2	27
Intestines	...	80	6	7	4	97
Stomachs	...	8	19	14	13	54
Legs	...	—	—	4	14	18

TABLE XIII.

Disease.		Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
Tuberculosis	...	260	3	—	5	268
Actinomycosis	...	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses	...	6	—	3	—	9
Angioma	...	—	—	—	—	—
Dropsy	...	5	—	4	—	9
Parasites	...	82	—	50	—	132
Pericarditis	...	1	—	—	—	1
Pleurisy	...	10	—	3	—	13
Peritonitis	...	—	—	—	—	—
Mammitis	...	—	—	—	—	—
Bruised	...	4	—	3	2	9
Johne's Disease	...	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	2	—	—	4	6
Septicaemia	...	3	—	1	—	4
Cirrhosis	...	3	—	—	—	3
Fever	...	2	3	1	—	6
Swine Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	4	4

Food unfit for human consumption voluntarily
surrendered :

TABLE XIV.

Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	10 tins
Baked Beans	...	...	...	2 „
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	4 „
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	7 „
Peas	...	...	...	4 „
Fish	...	...	...	5 „
Plums	...	...	...	6 „
Spaghetti	...	...	...	1 „
Salmon	...	...	...	4 „
Vegetables	...	...	...	6 „
Tomatoes	...	...	...	204 „
Butter	...	...	...	25½ lbs.
Soup	...	...	...	1 tin
Fruit	...	...	...	10 tins
Jam	...	...	...	2 „
Ham	...	...	...	11 „
Pickles	...	...	...	48 bottles
Pork	...	...	...	7 tins
Eggs	...	...	...	126
Sardines	...	...	...	5 tins
Pineapple	...	...	...	7 „
Peaches	...	...	...	4 „
Gammon	...	...	...	18 lbs.
Shoulder Pork	...	...	...	22 „
Cod fillets	...	...	...	4 stones
Teacakes	...	...	...	2 tins
Veal	...	...	...	2 „
Marshmallow	...	...	...	3 „
Crab-paste	...	...	...	1 tin
Cheese	...	...	...	53 lbs.
Tongue	...	...	...	1 tin
Beef	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Salmon	...	...	...	2 tins
Oranges	...	...	...	6 „
Mussels	...	...	...	4 „
Cherries	...	...	...	75 „
Oysters	...	...	...	2 tins
Strawberries	...	...	...	6 „

Factories.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	No. on Register. (3)	Inspections. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (6)	M/c. Line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	...	1 ... 7	...	1 written 8 verbal	Nil	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	...	2 ... 32	...	10 verbal	Nil	...
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out workers premises)	...	3 ... 3	...	Nil	Nil	...
Total	...	42	82	19	Nil	

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Number of cases in which defects were found.							
Particulars. (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	Found. (3)	Remedied. (4)	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M/c. Line No. (8)
				To H.M. In- spectors. (5)	By H.M. In- spectors. (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	...	4	4	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	5	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	6	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	7	3	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	8	1	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—							
(a) Insufficient	...	9	3	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	10	3	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	11	1	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	...	12	—	—	4	—	12
Total	...	60	15	Nil	4	Nil	60

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

		Section 110.		Section 111.			
Nature of Work.	M/c. Line No. (2)	No. of Outworkers in Aug. list required by Sec. 110(1)(c).	No. of Cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (5)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises. (6)	Notices served. (7)	Prose- cutions. (8)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	M/c. Line No. (9)
Wearing apparel (making, etc.) ...	13	—	—	—	—	—	13
Cleansing and Washing ...	14	3	—	—	—	—	14
Total ...	70	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	70

SECTION F.

Prevalence and control of Notifiable Diseases
(excluding Tuberculosis).

TABLE XV.

Diseases.	Cases notified.				Deaths notified.
Scarlet Fever	5	...	—
Whooping Cough	8	...	—
Measles	1	...	—
Ac. Pneumonia	3	...	4
			17		4

TABLE XVI.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases. The figures shown in column 1 of the previous table are analysed in age groups below.

Number of cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.

Disease.	Under 1.	1-2.	3-4.	5-9.	10-14.	15-24.	25 & over.	Age Unknown.
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	2	—	5	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—

There were no cases of Infantile Paralysis (Poliomyelitis), nor of Diphtheria. There was no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified in 1952.

Age Groups.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.
Under 1 year	...	1	...	—	...	1
1-2	...	—	...	1	...	1
3-4	...	—	...	—	...	—
5-9	...	1	...	—	...	1
10-14	...	1	...	1	...	2
15-24	...	1	...	1	...	2
25 and over	...	6	...	—	...	6
All ages	...	10	...	3	...	13

It will be seen that the notification of new pulmonary cases numbered 10 and the non-respiratory cases 3. There were 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 male and 2 females. There were no deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis. Of the new pulmonary cases, four occurred in one household; another was found as a result of mass X-Ray of schoolchildren. Of the new non-respiratory cases, one was a transfer from another district.